



## Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee

PO BOX 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706  
(406) 444-3064  
FAX (406) 444-3036

### 60th Montana Legislature

#### SENATE MEMBERS

CAROL JUNEAU  
RICK LAIBLE  
TERRY MURPHY  
DAN WEINBERG

#### HOUSE MEMBERS

EDITH CLARK  
ERNIE DUTTON  
TERESA HENRY  
DIANE SANDS

#### COMMITTEE STAFF

SUE O'CONNELL, Lead Staff  
LISA JACKSON, Staff Attorney  
FONG HOM, Secretary  
PAT MURDO, Staff for SJR 15

For immediate release

June 4, 2008

Contact: Sue O'Connell, Legislative Research Analyst, 406-444-3597

Gayle Shirley, Legislative Information Officer, 406-444-2957

### Lawmakers to Consider EMS, Hospital Legislation

A group of lawmakers studying the state's emergency medical services (EMS) system will review a first round of draft legislation next week that includes proposals for tax incentives and an EMS grant program.

The Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee also will continue work on bills related to how hospitals determine which doctors have hospital privileges and when conflicts of interest exist among health-care providers.

The committee will meet at 10 a.m. June 10 in Room 137 of the State Capitol in Helena. A subcommittee studying specialty hospitals and economic credentialing will meet at 8 a.m. June 11 in the same room, with the full committee reconvening at 10 a.m.

The draft EMS legislation is based on ideas that have come up during a study created by Senate Joint Resolution 5, which required a review of the state's EMS system. The bill drafts also include proposals for a special license plate and for reduced staffing levels for some ambulance transports.

The committee will take public comment on these ideas June 11. It will then decide whether to proceed with or revise any of the potential bills and also whether to pursue additional ideas.

The hospital-related legislation is a result of a study of the state health-care delivery system that was approved by the 2007 Legislature with passage of Senate Joint Resolution 15. The bill draft involves so-called "economic credentialing," which is the practice of denying hospital privileges to a doctor who may have a financial interest in a competing health-care facility.

A panel discussion will focus on other issues affecting access to health care, including decisions made by insurance companies on which doctors to include in preferred provider networks.

For agendas and other meeting materials, visit [www.leg.mt.gov/cfhhs](http://www.leg.mt.gov/cfhhs). For more information, contact Sue O'Connell, legislative committee staffer, at 406-444-3597 or [soconnell@mt.gov](mailto:soconnell@mt.gov).

Committee members are Sens. Carol Juneau, D-Browning; Rick Laible, R-Darby; Terry Murphy, R-Cardwell; and Dan Weinberg, D-Whitefish; and Reps. Edith Clark, R-Sweetgrass; Ernie Dutton, R-Billings; and Teresa Henry and Diane Sands, both D-Missoula.